

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4367

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS PARIS 27151

DAKAR FOR DONALD BROWN; DEPARTMENT PASS NASA; ROME FOR
FODAG

E.O. 11652:N/A

SUBJECT:DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH ON REMOTE SENSING STA-
TION IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 241366

1. U.S. TEAM COMPRISING BLUMGART (AID), VOGT (STATE) AND
LOWE (ERIM CONSULTANT) ASSISTED BY HELMAN (ODC) AND
MURPHY (NASA) HELD INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL DISCUSSIONS
WITH FRENCH DELEGATION OF FAC AND CNES REPS HEADED BY
JOSEPH SCHNEIDER, MEMBER OF MINCOOPERATION CABINET,
DURING MORNINGS OF OCTOBER 16 AND 17.

2. U.S. TEAM EXPLAINED ORIGINS OF MISSION AND OUTLINED
TERMS OF REFERENCE PER REFTE. THE TEAM NOTED THAT TALKS
WITH FRENCH CONSTITUTED IMPORTANT PHASE OF GATHERING
INFORMATION ON SUBJECT PRIOR TO ADDIS MEETING. IN
COURSE OF DISCUSSION WE WERE ABLE TO BRING FRENCH UP TO
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DATE ON A NUMBER OF POINTS INCLUDING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF

STATUS OF ZAIRE STATION AND AGENDA OF ADDIS MEETING.
THERE WAS ALSO USEFUL DISCUSSION ON TECHNICAL CRITERIA
FOR REMOTE SENSING CENTER, THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN A
RECEIVING STATION AND A REMOTE SENSING CENTER, AND
THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA DISSEMINATION, INTERPRETATION AND
ESPECIALLY UTILIZATION.

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, FRENCH DELEGATION PRESENTED THEIR
DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A 5-YEAR PROJECT BEGINNING JANUARY
1976 FOR CONVERTING SATELLITE TRACKING STATION AT
OUAGADOUGOU TO A LANDSAT RECEIVING STATION WITH MINIMAL
ESSENTIAL PROCESSING AND INTERPRETATION FACILITIES.
LANDSAT CAPABILITY PLANNED TO START JANUARY 1978. AD-
VANTAGES CITED WERE PRESENCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES,
PRESENCE OF TRAINED AFRICAN STAFF AND EXISTENCE OF TWO
REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS
AND TECHNICIANS. PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED
IN SOME DETAIL, AFTER WHICH FRENCH LEFT US WITH COPIES
OF THEIR WRITTEN DRAFT WHICH TEAM REVIEWED IN DETAIL
AFTER MEETING.

4. OCTOBER 17 SESSION WAS LARGELY TAKEN UP WITH (A)
DISCUSSING U.S. TECHNICAL REACTION TO FRENCH PROPOSAL.
FYI. TEAM PREPARING A SUMMARY AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION
OF FRENCH PROPOSAL. END FYI. (B) POSSIBLE U.S. POSITION
ON ASSISTING IN ITS REALIZATION; AND (C) ALTERNATIVE
AFRICAN INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH FOR A CENTER. IN REGARD
TO FINANCING, FRENCH PLAN TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE
THEMSELVES BUT ARE LOOKING TO OTHER DONORS, INCLUDING
U.S. FOR ASSISTANCE.

5. WHILE FRENCH WERE OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING
U.S. ENDORSEMENT OF PROJECT AND HELP IN ITS FINANCING,
WE EQUALLY OBVIOUSLY WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO DO SO
UNDER TEAM'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PRIOR TO FAO AND
ADDIS MEETINGS. WE DID, HOWEVER, TELL THE FRENCH
THAT WE REGARDED THEIR PROPOSAL AS A SERIOUS ONE AND
ONE WHICH WOULD RECEIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION ON OUR
PART IN FORMULATING OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO WASHINGTON.
WE ALSO ENCOURAGED THE FRENCH TO PRESENT THEIR PROPOSAL
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AT THE ECA MEETING AND THEY PLAN TO DO SO.
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Message Attributes

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